



Renaissance & Renewal
Celebrating Ourselves

Friday, April 3 *and* Saturday, April 4, 1998
Holiday Inn Chicago City Centre
300 East Ohio Street



LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

by James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
'Till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
That the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope
That the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place
For which our fathers sighed?
We have come, over a way
That with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path
Through the blood of the Slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last,
Where the white gleam
Of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us
Thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might,
led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we meet Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine
Of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our Native Land.



UNITY IV

Renaissance & Renewal

Celebrating Ourselves

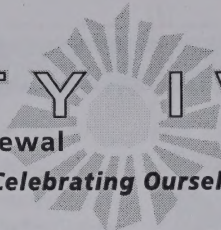


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CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS

PO Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181
Voicemail/Hotline 312-409-4917

Visit our website at <http://members.aol.com/CBLGUCIV/cblguc1.html>



WELCOME TO UNITY IV



Greetings to our members, friends, and supporters! Welcome to the Fourth Annual Unity Conference, and the *Fifth Anniversary of Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays* (CBLG). We have much to be thankful for and many to thank. CBLG, through the many partnerships and relationships it has formed in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and straight communities, has accomplished a great deal in a relatively short period of time. These accomplishments are not ours

alone. Each of us, individually and collectively have contributed to the building of our Black lesbian/gay/trans communities. Getting the work done takes time, energy and commitment. In pursuing our goals we often fail to take the time to celebrate our victories before we are off to the next task. Our conference theme this year, **"Renaissance & Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves"** was selected with the acknowledgment that we needed to take a moment to celebrate all we've done and to come together to renew ourselves as we begin the next set of challenges.

Chicago has a vibrant black lesbian/gay/trans community, due, in no small part, to the tremendous energy and the many projects we have all initiated. Our work also helps to inform the national agenda being set by the *National Black Lesbians and Gays Leadership Forum*. We welcome Jubi Headley, the new Executive Director, and members of the Forum Board who have joined us for this weekend. Working on multiple agendas in multiple communities is not an easy endeavor, and requires the input and energy of many to succeed. The video, *"Leaving The Shadows Behind,"* that many of you will preview during the Banquet and Gala, shows many of the faces, voices and acts of activism in Chicago that have made and continue to make a difference throughout our communities.

There is no way to enumerate all of the invaluable contributions that support our work and this conference. Our thanks to all of our co-sponsors, 1998 Unity Conference co-chairs, committees, volunteers, and friends who, without each of you, this conference and CBLG's work could not happen. The corporate and community support for this event and our other projects grows each year and for this we are extremely grateful. Please take a moment during the conference and look in the program at our list of corporate and community sponsors and supporters and join us in thanking them.

Our outreach for this conference has been more extensive than the past and our conference agenda reflects that. There is an opportunity for each of us this weekend to share our common goals, network, build skills, affirm community and celebrate our diversity as we prepare ourselves for the next set of challenges before us. This is also a time to relax, have some fun, and experience the culture and spirit of our community.

In celebration and renewal,
Renae Ogletree & Michael Harrington
Co-Chairs, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays



CBLG Unity IV Conference



Welcome!

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays

*Thanks And Salutes All of its Allies and Supporters!
To Another Five Years of Community Development and Activism!*

CBLG Steering Committee

CO-CHAIRS

Renae Ogletree
Michael J. Harrington

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CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR

Susan Stanley

CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS

PO Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181
Voicemail/Hotline 312-409-4917

Visit our website at <http://members.aol.com/CBLGUCIV/cblguc1.html>



CELEBRATING OURSELVES

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays will celebrate its fifth anniversary by acknowledging the re-energizing of community building in the black lesbian/gay/transgender community. We acknowledge the enormous work that has taken place in a short period of time and celebrate our contributions by recognizing how all of us celebrate in a myriad of ways through: advocacy initiatives, coalition-building with other organizations, youth development, the arts and the increase in visibility of black lesbian/gay/transgender participation in all facets of the larger lesbian/gay/transgender community and African American community.



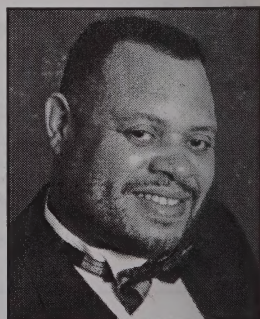
Over the last several months, we had the opportunity to work with the best and the brightest from local community groups in planning activities and workshops for Unity IV. This year we expanded the conference to two days and chocked it full of interesting workshops, panel discussions, cultural activities and much, much more.

On Saturday evening, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays will celebrate our 5th anniversary with a dinner dance celebration featuring the video premier of a new documentary on the black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered experiences in Chicago, titled *"Leaving the Shadows Behind."* You will not want to miss it!

If you are visiting Chicago for the first time, we hope you will check out the rich history of this city. Stretching from the historical Bronzeville community on the Southside of the city to the pockets of lesbian/gay/transgender entertainment that line the neighborhoods throughout the Northside of the city. Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people have helped Chicago become the world class city it is today.

On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee for Unity IV, we are pleased that you have decided to spend the next two days with us as we socialize, intellectualize, and organize for the challenges ahead.

Peace,
Mary F. Morten
Isaiah Israel Wright, Jr.
Conference Co-Chairs



THE CBLG UNITY IV CONFERENCE SPONSORED IN PART BY:

A Real Read	Club Escape	Onyx
Adodi	Club Intimus	Renaee Ogletree
Affinity	The Crossroads Fund of Chicago	David Philmee, ZUNDESIGN
Alice's Garden	Eagle Leathers	Playboy Foundation
Ann Sathers	Gary Rice	Print It!
BLACKlines/ Lambda Publications	GBM	Patricia Ball Reed
BLK Publications	Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Educators Network	RJ's Videos
Lora Branch	Greater Chicago Committee	Roseland Community Hospital
Brothers United in Support/ Test Positive Aware Network	Horizons Community Services	Angela Schmidt
Ron Carrol	Howard Brown Health Center	Sam's Wines
Chicago Commission on Human Relations/ Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues	Khuli Zaban	Serono
Chicago Foundation For Women	LesBiGay Radio/AM 750	Sidetracks
Chicago Resource Center	Literary Exchange	Soft Sheen Products
City of Chicago, Department of Public Health Division of HIV/AIDS Public Policy Programs	Luster Products	Simone Bouyer Fine Arts
The Closet	Malebox! Magazine	SMED, Intl
The Committee	Minority Outreach Intervention Project	Tower Records
	Moet Champagne	The Vix
	National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum	United Airlines
		University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Psychology
		Art Velasquez
		Venus Magazine
		Shelton Watson





ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

FIGHTING FOR YOUR RIGHTS IN ILLINOIS!

**We are looking for a few good
men and women to help**

- ORGANIZING AND PARTICIPATING IN SPECIAL EVENTS LIKE THE PRIDE PARADE AND NORTH HALSTED MARKET DAYS
- WORKING WITH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE LOBBY DAYS AND CONFERENCES
- MEETING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY BY DOING OUTREACH THROUGHOUT THE STATE
- WORKING AS A TEAM TO MAKE HISTORY IN ILLINOIS!

**For more information, please contact the
ILLINOIS FEDERATION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(773) 477-7173
(888) IFHR 888**



UNITY IV SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

11:30 AM *Registration Begins*
1:00 PM *Opening Plenary*
2:00 PM *Institutes Begin*
5:00 PM *Welcome Reception*
9:00 PM *Poetry Slam*

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

8:00 AM *Continental Breakfast*
8:45 AM *Welcome and Keynote Address*
9:30 AM *Workshop Session I*
11:10 AM *Workshop Session II*
12:45 PM *Lunch and Keynote Address*
1:55 PM *Workshop Session III*
3:30 PM *Panel Discussions*
4:30 PM *Closing Ceremony*
7:00 PM *Banquet and Gala*
10:00 PM *Afterset*

THE PEOPLE OF COLOR COALITION

Salutes CBLG for its support of our campaign for Equitable, and Responsible AIDS Fundraising that will benefit communities of Color.

THE PEOPLE OF COLOR COALITION IS:

Renae Ogletree
W. Robert Schultz, III
Martin J. Gonzalez-Rojas
Nikita Buckhoy
Bennett Williams
Darrell Gorden
Robert Castillo
Charles Nelson

Shelton Watson
Sidney Thomas
Women's Action Coalition
Southside HIV/AIDS
Resource Providers
And a Multitude of
Anonymous Supporters
and Other Coalition Builders.





Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

CONGRATULATES UNITY IV ORGANIZERS & PARTICIPANTS

LAMBDA ALSO SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR TWO NEW POSITIONS

Lambda is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV/AIDS, through impact litigation, education, and public policy work. Founded in 1973 and currently celebrating its 25th anniversary year, Lambda is headquartered in New York and has regional offices in Chicago, Los Angeles and Atlanta.

STAFF ATTORNEY

The staff attorney will handle lesbian, gay and HIV-related civil rights work and public education. Applicants should have significant litigation experience (4+ years preferred), ability to work independently, excellent writing and speaking abilities, and a demonstrated commitment to the concerns of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV/AIDS. Experience working in communities of color and experience in relevant substantive legal areas preferred. **Salary:** From low 40's depending on experience, plus excellent benefits.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Responsibilities include word processing of legal briefs and correspondence, creating and maintaining legal case files and research files, answering phones, processing client intake calls, copying, faxing, handling correspondence and working with colleagues on covering other office matters as needed. Applicant must have excellent clerical skills (including WordPerfect 7.0), telephone and filing and preferably legal secretarial or paralegal background. Intake, database and/or on-line experience a plus. **Compensation:** From mid \$20's depending on experience. Excellent benefits.

DEADLINE - APRIL 15, 1998

*Send cover letter, resume and references
(plus a writing sample for attorney applicants)*

to Patricia M. Logue, LLDEF, 11 E. Adams #1008, Chicago, IL 60603.





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

April 3, 1998

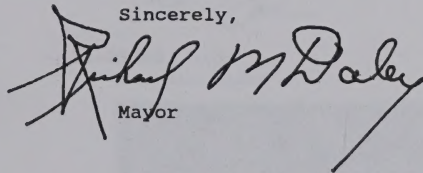
GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I would like to offer my warmest greetings to all in attendance at the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays (CBLG) Conference and Fifth Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration.

Chicago, in its diversity, represents a profile of America and a cross-section of the world. In recognizing and appreciating our differences, we also find the common bonds that unite us as a people and a community. Historically, countless members of the gay and lesbian communities have made substantial contributions to Chicago and the nation. I am pleased to recognize CBLG's efforts to organize individual and community awareness on behalf of encouraging toleration and respect among all members of our society.

My best wishes to each of you for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,



Mayor



CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
FINANCE
SPECIAL AGING

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1303

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS OFFICE

Kluczynski Federal Building
Suite 3900
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604-1690

April 3, 1998

Greetings:

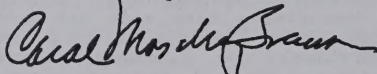
I would like to commend the organizers and participants of Unity Conference IV - "Renaissance and Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves" and congratulate Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays on the occasion of their Fifth Anniversary.

Over the years, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays have paved the way and cleared obstacles not only for African-Americans but for lesbians and gay men of all backgrounds.

In addition, as an original co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and co-sponsor of the Hate Crimes Bill of 98, know that I will continue to support legislation that insures the rights of all Americans.

Again, congratulations and have a great weekend.

Yours truly,



Carol Moseley-Braun
United States Senator



CBLG Unity IV Conference

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Letter of Support

RICHARD J. DURBIN
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304
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TTY (202) 224-8180

230 SOUTH DEARBORN, 38TH FL.
CHICAGO, IL 60604
(312) 363-4952
525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
(217) 482-4062

SUITE 414
MERCANTILE BANK OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
123 SOUTH TENTH STREET
MT. VERNON, IL 62864
(618) 244-7441

April 3, 1998

Greetings:

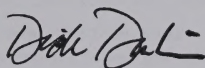
I am proud to serve as a co-chair for the Unity Conference IV - "Renaissance and Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves" and would like to congratulate Chicago Black Lesbian and Gays on their fifth anniversary.

We have been blessed during the Clinton Administration to have the best record on issues affecting the gay and lesbian community in this nation's history. Through the efforts of grass-roots organizations including the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays progressive policies have gained mainstream acceptance. It is important that you continue your fight for many years to come.

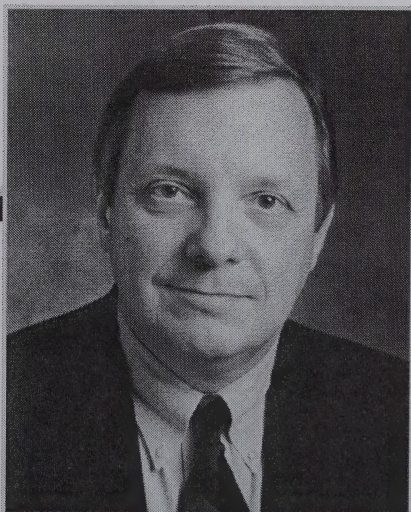
In Washington, I am proud to join Senator Carol Moseley-Braun in supporting legislation that protects the rights of all Americans, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crime Bill of '98.

I would like to congratulate you again on the celebration of your fifth anniversary. I hope you have a successful conference and a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
2D DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1302

COMMITTEES:
BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY

SMALL BUSINESS
BANKING REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
REGULATORY REFORM AND
PAPERWORK REDUCTION

March 20, 1998

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays
PO Box 14811
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Brothers and Sisters:

I would like to congratulate you on your fifth anniversary. I am proud to serve as an Honorary Co-Chair of the Unity Conference IV-"Renaissance and Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves."

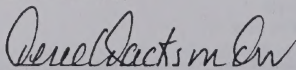
I commend your perseverance and I applaud your efforts in the fight for equal protection under the law. We cannot be strong as a nation until discrimination against every person is eliminated. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Please know that I will continue to stand up against workplace discrimination wherever it may arise. If a person can do their job and performs their tasks proficiently, they must not be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. I will also continue to oppose any anti-gay hate legislation. I must tell you, my vote against DOMA was one of my proudest moments in the House.

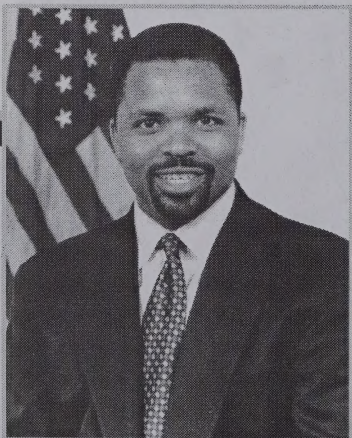
I recognize your convictions and share in your beliefs that a person's moral and religious views should remain with those individuals and within their religious institutions. Our laws must not be used to discriminate on matters of sexual orientation or private conduct.

Again, congratulations on this special anniversary. I wish you many more to come.

Best Wishes,



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
4TH DISTRICT
ILLINOIS

March 3, 1998

Michael Harrington
Renae Ogletree
Co-Chairs
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays
P.O. Box 14811
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Michael & Renae:

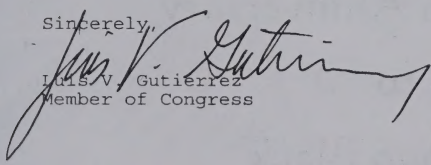
I am very pleased to offer my most sincere and warmest congratulations to the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays on your United IV Conference to be held in Chicago on April 3 - 4, 1998.

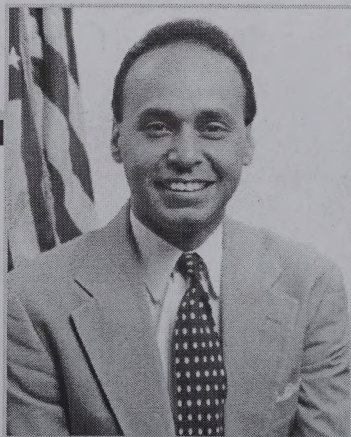
This years conference, "Renaissance and Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves", will provide you with an opportunity to acknowledge your past accomplishments and contributions. The conference will also provide participants with the opportunity to discuss solutions to the challenges each of us face in our struggle to create a more fair and just community.

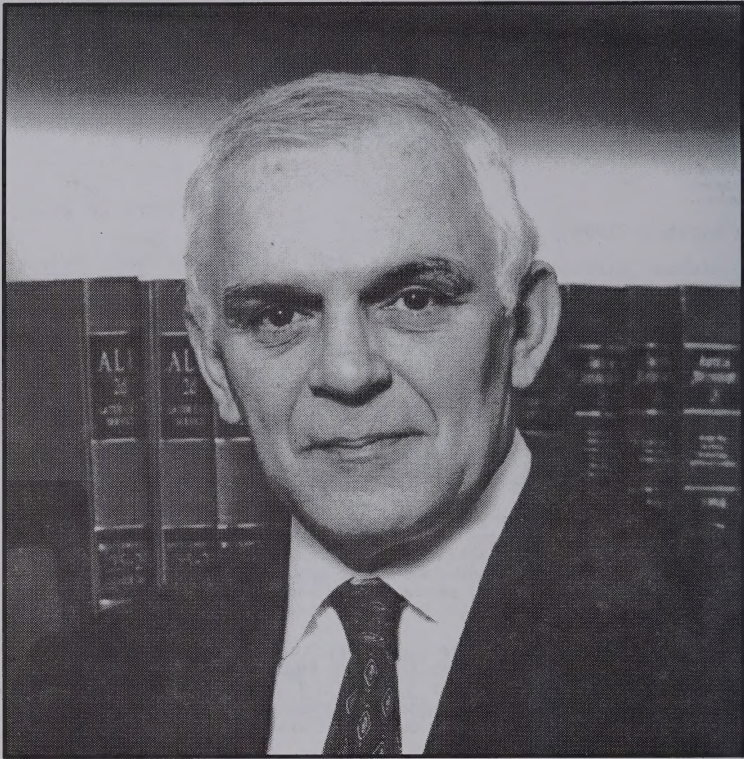
I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays on its five years of service and commitment to activism, change and visibility within the Black lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgendered communities. I know that we will continue to celebrate your contributions and success for many years in the future.

Once again, I salute your accomplishments and look forward to continuing to work with you on issues that are important to all of us.

Sincerely,


Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



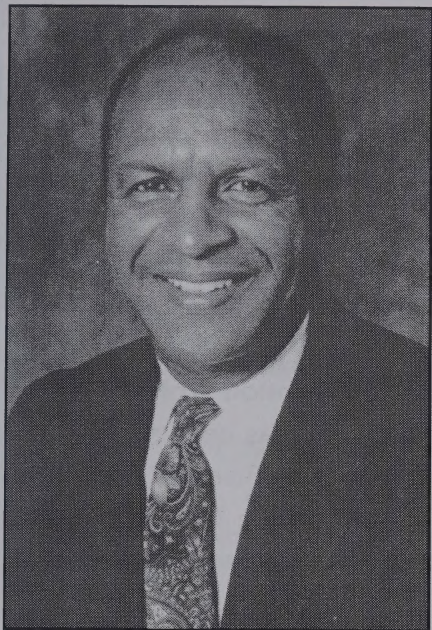


Happy 5th Anniversary
to

Chicago Black
Lesbians and Gays

Richard A. Devine
Cook County State's Attorney





JESSE WHITE

Democrat for Illinois
Secretary of State
Supports CBLG!

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays

Congratulations!
As you celebrate your *Fifth*
Anniversary



HRC/Illinois salutes CBLG
on five years of making a difference for
all lesbians and gay men in Chicago.



CBLG Unity IV Conference

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Sponsors

Minority Outreach Intervention Project

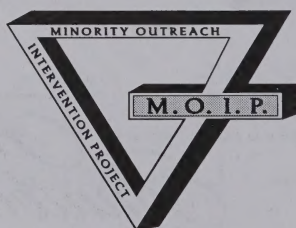
Would Like to Congratulate

C.B.L.G.

On Their 4th Annual Unity Conference

The Minority Outreach Intervention Project is a community based agency that has been serving the African-American, Latino gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities since 1989 and offers the following services at no charge:

- HIV Prevention Education
- Case Management
- Prevention Case Management
- Psycho Social Support Groups
- Primary Care Clinic
- HIV Testing and Counseling



Minority Outreach Intervention Project

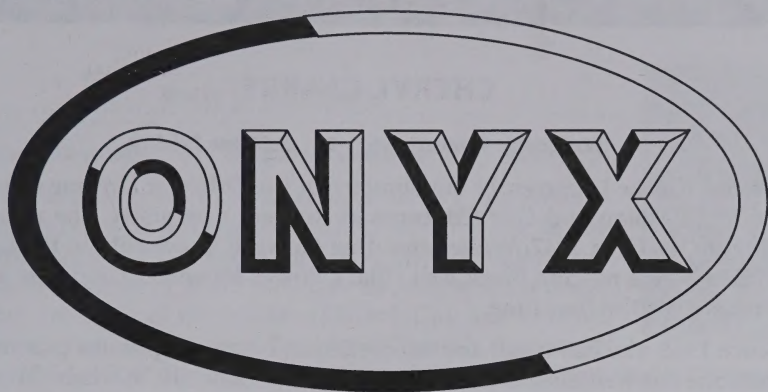
1255 S. Wabash Ave., Suite #2 South

Chicago, Illinois 60605

Tel. (312) 986-0661

Fax: (312) 986-0928





ONYX (*Leathermen of Color*)
and the **ONYX PEARLS**
(*Women of Color Leather Network*)

CONGRATULATES
Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays
on your
5th Anniversary Celebration
and Unity Conference IV

Join us on October 9-12, 1998 Columbus Day Weekend
for the
ONYX Blackout 3rd Anniversary Weekend

For information:

ONYX

1340 W. Irving Park Rd. Suite 188
Chicago, IL 60613

ONYX mail@aol.com





OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

CHERYL CLARKE

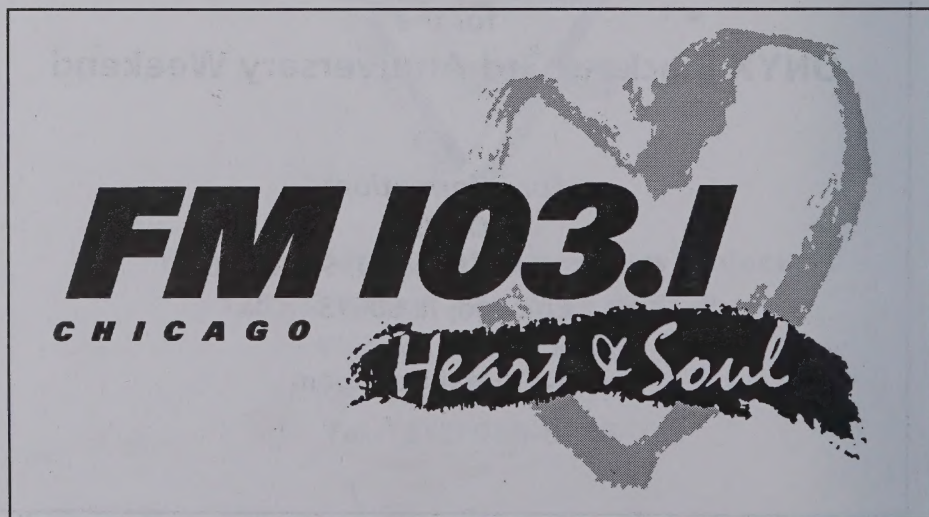
Welcome Reception ♦ 5:00 PM Friday

Cheryl Clarke is currently the Director of the Office of Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian and Gay Concerns at Rutgers University. She was born in Washington, D. C. in 1947. While attending Howard University in the late 1960s she witnessed the nascent Black Arts/Black Power Movement and was moved to write poetry for the first time.

Since 1968, she has tried, and succeeded in being a righteous practitioner of the craft. She has written as a black lesbian-feminist since 1979, when she reviewed Ntozake Shange's *nappy edges* for *Conditions Five: The Black Women's Issue*, the ground breaking collection of black feminist writings. She is the author of four books of poetry: *Narratives: Poems In The Tradition of Black Women*, *Living As A Lesbian* (Firebrand Books, 1986), *Humid Pitch* (Firebrand Books, 1989) and *Experimental Love* (Firebrand Books, 1993). *Experimental Love* was nominated for a 1994 Lambda Award.

Ms. Clarke's writings have also been published in a diverse array of queer, black and feminist publications such as: *Thirteenth Moon*, *Feminist Studies*, *The Black Scholar*, *Outweek*, *Sojourner*, *Women's Review of Books*, and *Radical America*. She takes an uncompromising black and queer stance. She is currently completing a new manuscript entitled *Chicago Renaissance and Other Poems*.

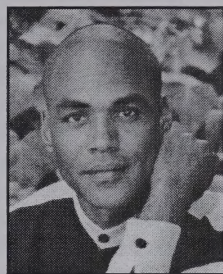
Clarke has served on the boards of New York Women Against Rape, The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the City University of New York Graduate School, the New Jersey Women and AIDS Network. Clarke uses poetry "to unearth the untold or not-told-enough stories of women, triumphant lesbians, ambivalent men, slaves and ex-slaves, and the children who survive childhood."



PHILL WILSON

Opening Keynote ♦ 8:30AM Saturday ♦ Ballroom

Phill Wilson is the resident scholar on HIV and AIDS at the University of Southern California. Also, he is the Commissioner of HIV Health for Los Angeles County. Phill is a board member of *AIDS Medicine and Miracles*, a board member emeritus of the *National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum* and one of President Clinton's appointees to the *HRSA AIDS Advisory Committee*. Formerly, he was the AIDS coordinator for the city of Los Angeles and the Director of Policy and Planning for AIDS Project Los Angeles.



Mr. Wilson has been involved in the founding of a number of AIDS Service Organizations and CBOs including the National Minority AIDS Council, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, The Chris Brownlie Hospice, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the Los Angeles County Gay Men of Color Consortium and the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. Phill was a member of the U.S. delegation to the 1994 World AIDS Summit in Paris, France and has worked extensively on HIV/AIDS policy, research, prevention and treatment issues in Russia, Latvia, the Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, France, Mexico and many African countries. Mr. Wilson has been living with HIV for sixteen years.

DR. MARJORIE HILL

Luncheon Keynote ♦ 12:45PM Saturday ♦ Ballroom



Dr. Marjorie J. Hill is the Commissioner for the New York State Worker's Compensation Board. She was nominated by Governor Mario Cuomo and appointed by the New York State Senate to serve a seven year term. Dr. Hill served as Assistant Vice President for Special Populations at the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation, the largest public health network in the nation. A long-standing public health advocate, Dr. Hill has more than ten years of administrative experience in inner city hospitals. Also, Hill served as Director of the *Mayor's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community* where she instituted initiatives in health, public safety and city wide equal opportunity employment. Dr. Hill was particularly instrumental in the development of New York City's Domestic Partnership policy.

A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Hill has held faculty appointments at Yeshiva University, New York Medical College, Pace University and the College of New Rochelle. She is a long-standing member of the Association of Black Psychologists and served as their first openly lesbian president.



black-and-blue, black ball, black belt, black bird, black gold, black hole, black jack, black out, black power, black smith, black tie, black widow, black sheep, black head, black berry, black cat, black list, black pride, black gay pride, the black black party. black-and-blue, black ball, black belt, black bird, black gold, black hole, black jack, black out, black power, black smith, black tie, black widow, black sheep, black head, black berry, black cat, black list, black pride, black gay pride, the black party, the black party, the black party.....

The Black BLACK Party 4

attire: *entirely blackkkkkkkkkkkkk*

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MEN'S INSTITUTE

Sex, Spirit, and Self

2:00 TO 5:00 PM ♦ OHIO ROOM

Facilitator: Kevin E. Tindell

The men's institute explores sexuality in terms of being, self-identification, group identification and spirituality. Through lecturettes and large and small group activities, participants will examine the social, political and spiritual aspects of sexuality with an emphasis on being a same gender loving man of African descent.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sisters, Can We Talk? From the Political to the Personal

2:00 TO 5:00 PM ♦ ONTARIO ROOM

*Facilitators: C.C. Carter, Cheryl Clarke, Gabrielle Hearndon,
Donna Rose-Weems, Pat MacComb*

Feeling a little overlooked with all the focus on "ELLEN?" As African-American lesbians, we contend not only with homophobia but racism and sexism. How do we gain more visibility and participation in the black lesbian/gay/trans movement? How do we have healthy relationships with friends and lovers and still get the work done? Facilitators will present strategies and techniques on how to put all the pieces together for our social, spiritual, and sexual selves. This year's women's institute will also include an overview on where you can plug into community organizations, and small group discussions on how to manage your personal relationships.

YOUTH INSTITUTE

I'm Coming Out!

Addressing Coming Out Issues Among Minority LGBT Youth

2:00 TO 5:00 PM ♦ MICHIGAN ROOM

Facilitator: L. Michael Gipson

This institute will focus on challenges to achieving resiliency as a minority LGBT youth and an evaluation of coming out to non-LGBT persons. Self-assessments of internalized homophobia and placement within the coming out process will be explored. A 29 minute multi-cultural video on issues facing LGBT youth will be shown and a discussion on the video's finer points will follow. Guidelines for assisting others in their coming out process will also be examined.





SESSION I WORKSHOPS

GAY & LESBIAN PARENTING

Judicial Decision Making & Psychological Research

9:30 TO 11:00 AM ♦ BALLROOM I

Facilitator: Isaiah Crawford, Ph.D.

As part of the African tradition of the extended family, African American lesbians and gays have always played a role in the rearing of the next generation whether it be as aunts, uncles, older cousins, the responsible sibling or even the grandparent. What is new is that many gay and lesbians are seeking to formalize these parenting roles either out of necessity or the need to be a legal parent. The legal system, a reflection of society's values, has reacted to the issue of gay and lesbian adoption in conflicting and often times homophobic manner. Psychological research has some interesting conclusions that those outside of that professional community may find reassuring or disputable. What is the state of gay and lesbian parenting? This workshop will explore these multiple issues.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

9:30 TO 11:00 AM ♦ HURON ROOM

Facilitator: Pastor Alma Faith Crawford, Church of the Open Door

This fascinating video addresses issues faced by LesBiGayTrans Christians in the Black church. A discussion period follows.

SAM-SEXUALLY ACTIVE MEN

9:30 TO 11:00 AM ♦ OHIO ROOM

*Facilitators: Derrick Hicks, The Greater Chicago Committee
and Martin Gonzalez, CALOR*

This workshop will attempt to define and discuss SAM and how that term refers to communities of color. HIV prevention targeting will also be discussed.

AIDS AWARENESS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN

9:30 TO 11:00 AM ♦ ONTARIO ROOM

Facilitator: Michia Kimbrough

This session will provide participants with basic facts about HIV/AIDS as it relates to African-American Lesbians. Participants will also become familiar with the modes of transmission, various prevention techniques, and several ways to assist in our nation's battle against this deadly virus.



SESSION I WORKSHOPS

THE QUEER IN THE MIRROR

An Introspective View of Homophobia

9:30 TO 11:00AM ♦ SUPERIOR I ROOM

Facilitator: L. Michael Gipson, Advocates For Youth

This interactive workshop will assist youth leaders and adult professionals in developing skills to assist themselves and others in dealing with homophobia. Facts on risk behavior, strategies for inclusion, modeling activities to fight homophobia, self-exploration of biases, as well as testimonials will be shared by both youth and adult presenters.

CAREERS 2000

Careers, Jobs, and Making Ends Meet: Navigating the Labor Market in 2000

9:30 TO 11:00AM ♦ SUPERIOR II ROOM

Facilitator: O. David Jackson, The Forum Group.

You will probably make between 7-10 job changes in your lifetime, frequently not within the same career field. Our community needs to be keenly aware that career management remains a key component of healthy living. Furthermore, an awareness of the opportunities, and obstacles that make navigating your life from making ends meet, to jobs, to careers can be a rewarding process. Having a community of Black Gays and Lesbians who are visible, active, and financially capable of sustaining "community" is essential. This workshop will guide participants through the labor maze with discussions on: identifying and choosing viable careers reflective of personal interest; securing the best training and experiences that make the resume attractive; the ups and downs of making and managing career transitions; and success—"was it worth it?"

HOW TO START A MAGAZINE OR NEWSLETTER

9:30 TO 11:00 ♦ MICHIGAN ROOM

Facilitator: Ric Irick, Malebox! Magazine

Have an idea that no one else has in print? Want to be self-empowered financially? This workshop will focus on the development of an idea into a tangible feature or news article for sale to a publication and other aspects of publishing and the magazine business.





SESSION I WORKSHOPS

AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY

The Importance of Building a LesBiGayTrans Contingent

9:30 TO 11:00 AM ♦ SUPERIOR III ROOM

*Facilitators: Darrell Gordon, The Autonomous Zone, and
Coalition for Positive Sexuality*

*Shelton Watson, Chairperson, City of Chicago's
Mayor's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues*

African Liberation Day is an international holiday of Black solidarity and nationhood. On Chicago's Westside, the historical home of the more militant political trends, the African Liberation Day Parade is a time for neighborhood solidarity and community building as well as a time to stand for the red, black, and green. What is Black LGBT people's contribution to and responsibility for the Black community in public events such as this?



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What is the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum?

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum "The Forum" is the only national organization dedicated to empowering the nation's Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community.

The Forum does this by:

- Advocating for our interests on a local, state and national level
- Educating the public about the lives and contributions of Black lesbians and gays
- Increasing visibility within the media
- Developing strong leaders for the future
- Building bridges between the Black lesbian and gay communities and other communities

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SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

ROOM	WELCOME AND KEYNOTE 8:45AM	SESSION I 9:30-11:00	SESSION II 11:10-12:40
BALLROOM	Phill Wilson	Gay Parenting Issues	
STATEROOM		Vendors	Vendors
HURON		All God's Children	Review of the Good Book
OHIO		Sexually Active Men	HIV+/HIV-
ONTARIO		AIDS Awareness for AA Women	Female Fetishes and Fantasies
SUPERIOR I		The Queer in the Mirror	Sexually Aware Youth
SUPERIOR II		Careers 2000	Transgenesis
SUPERIOR III		African Liberation Day	Interracial Relationships
MICHIGAN		How To Start a Magazine	Bi Myself

OPENING CEREMONIES
FRIDAY 1:00PM
BALLROOM





LUNCH 12:45-1:45	SESSION III 1:55-3:25	PANELS 3:30-4:25	ROOM
Dr. M. Hill			BALLROOM
Vendors	Bell and Clarke Reading and Book Signing		STATEROOM
		Role of the Arts as a Political Forum	HURON
	Blessing Same Sex Couples	Think Globally... Act Locally	OHIO
	Why You Ain't Got No Man?		ONTARIO
	Mentoring LGBT Youth		SUPERIOR I
	Traditional Thai Massage		SUPERIOR II
Black Film Forum	Black Film Forum		SUPERIOR III
	Networking for AA Women	Finding The Leather in You	MICHIGAN

CLOSING CEREMONIES
SATURDAY 4:30PM
ONTARIO ROOM





SESSION II WORKSHOPS

THE ORIGIN OF HOMOPHOBIA IN THE BLACK CHURCH

A Review of "The Good Book" by Peter Gomes

11:10 TO 12:40 PM ♦ HURON ROOM

Facilitator: Max Smith, Adodi

Peter Gomes, the Black and openly gay Chaplain of Harvard, wrote "*The Good Book*" which examines homophobia in Christianity. The workshop presents a history of how Black churches became so homophobic, and why an understanding of that history, as well as the most frequently cited scriptures regarding same gender love, can and should bring about a prompt change in those attitudes. The Adodi brotherhood is presenting this workshop in lieu of their monthly meeting.

HIV+/HIV- Can We Talk?

11:10 TO 12:40 PM ♦ OHIO ROOM

Facilitators: Steve Wakefield and Sanford Gaylord

This workshop addresses differences among men of various HIV serostatus, with the primary goal of increased mutual understanding. It is hoped that for many this will begin to address barriers which keep us apart. Participants will discuss personal fears, examine community norms about safer sex, and examine personal habits relating to persons on the basis of known or unknown HIV status. NOTE: This workshop is designed specifically for persons who are male or transgender-male identified. Participants will be required to sign a statement of confidentiality. *Admission is limited to 30.*

FEMALE FETISHES AND FANTASIES

11:10 TO 12:40 PM ♦ ONTARIO ROOM

Facilitator: Pat McComb

This workshop will explore desires, needs, and wants, including the role of communication in receiving sexual pleasure and gratification. Couple massage techniques (among other things) will be explored. *This workshop limited to women.*



SEXUALLY AWARE YOUTH

11:10 TO 12:40PM ♦ SUPERIOR I ROOM

Facilitator: Rhonda Mundhenk

Youth is a time for exploration. Unfortunately, there is no guidebook for the process of becoming aware of one's sexuality. Here will be an opportunity for questioning youth, and those who may be already comfortable with being identified as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender to explore their commonalities and challenges now that they have entered the world of sexuality. Demonstration of safer sex techniques.

SOCIAL ISSUES OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

11:10 TO 12:40PM ♦ SUPERIOR II

Facilitator: Lorraine Sade Baskerville, Transgenesis

This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of individuals who are members of the Transgender community. Terms that distinctly describe those individuals and social issues that can adversely affect this population such as HIV/AIDS, substance (ab)use and working in the sex trade industry will be covered. Mental health as well as physical health issues will also be explored.

OVERNIGHT SUCCESS DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

*Interracial Relations: A Gay Couple's Personal Observations
About the Nature of Diversity and Community*

11:10 TO 12:40PM ♦ SUPERIOR III

Facilitators: Rickey Sain Sr. and Jim Boushay

An interactive and whimsical reader's theatre style presentation using word, story telling, a ritual "Circle of Respect," soulful music and hundreds of pictures. The workshop celebrates the communion of "saints and sinners" dressed in the garments of hope and optimism. Special acknowledgments to Carl Branch for the musical arrangement, and to Brother Joseph Kilikevice. *Photos by Jacqueline Ross Galleries and Israel Wright Photographs.*





SESSION II WORKSHOPS

BI MYSELF

11:10 TO 12:40PM ♦ MICHIGAN ROOM

Facilitator: Paula Neely

Some would argue that bisexuality is natural. Others feel that one must identify as a lesbian, or gay, or perhaps as a straight who just likes to "fool around". Many feel that bisexuals are suspect because they can "pass" when it comes to sexuality. Here is a chance to explore these and other issues of individuals who are sometimes dismissed as being simply "confused".

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MEET THE AUTHORS

Geneva Bell and Cheryl Clarke

1:55 TO 3:25 PM ♦ HURON ROOM

A time for a interactive book signing and reading, this session will be marked by commonalities and contrasts of two Black women. Chicago author Geneva Bell's *My Rose* is a heartfelt tale of a mother's experience with her son's battle with AIDS. Lesbian/feminist poet Cheryl Clarke witnessed the nascent Black Arts/Black Power Movement while at Howard University in the 1960's. She will sign her latest work *Experimental Love* and read from a work in progress *Chicago Renaissance and Other Poems*.

WHY YOU AIN'T GOT NO MAN?

1:55 TO 3:25 PM ♦ OHIO ROOM

Facilitators: Charles E. Nelson II and Chester Lyles

The discussion will help participants better understand what they are looking for in a partner and how they can have a better relationship. The workshop will also assist participants in identifying whether they truly want a relationship, what a relationship means for them, what attributes are most desired in a mate, and what elements facilitate and impede compatibility.

NETWORKING

A Must for African American Women Who Date Women

1:55 TO 3:25 PM ♦ ONTARIO ROOM

Facilitator: Flecia R. Thomas, M.S.Ed.

Networking is a very broad concept, however it can have many clear and directional applications for African American women who date other women (sistas). Networking can facilitate the building of solid relationships between sistas. Networking has many social, emotional, and economic possibilities. Learning how to build and maintain healthy and lasting networks can smooth the "coming out" process. The four steps necessary towards the building of successful networks are presented.





SESSION III WORKSHOPS

MENTORING LGBT AFRICAN-AMERICAN YOUTH

Challenges and Program Implementation

1:55 TO 3:25 PM ♦ SUPERIOR I ROOM

Facilitator: L. Michael Gipson, Advocates for Youth.

This roundtable/discussion workshop will focus on obstacles and challenges as it relates to Mentoring African-American LGBT youth. Models of mentoring, dealing with controversy, confronting internalized homophobia and other barriers for mentoring youth, as well as youth involvement strategies will be discussed. Participants will be given the tools to assist them in developing an action plan for implementing a formal mentoring program in their organization or on their own.

BLESSING SAME SEX COUPLES

To Do or Not To Do

1:55 TO 3:25 PM ♦ SUPERIOR II ROOM

Facilitator: Father Joseph A. Harmon

This workshop is a brief review of the state of same sex couples primarily from a religious perspective but also with reference to recent legal developments. The workshop will also explore the historical development of marriage within Christian experience and ways in which that development may or may not have application within contemporary gay and lesbian relationships.

GROWING YOUNGER

Traditional Thai Medical Massage- An Alternative Therapy for Better Living

1:55 TO 3:25 PM ♦ SUPERIOR III ROOM

Facilitators: Lawrence Moore and Tunukwa

Thai body therapy is used to facilitate and promote a harmonious state of being. The ancient Thai people recorded various states of disease and imbalance within the body, the mind, and emotions. Over a period of time, they carefully devised creative and practical methods of influencing the course of these balances. This was important, as imbalances prevented people from fully experiencing life in a productive way. We will perform four demonstrations of Thai therapy. Loose fitting clothes are recommended.



SATURDAY PANEL DISCUSSIONS

THE ROLE OF THE ARTS AS A POLITICAL FORUM

3:30 TO 4:25 PM ♦ HURON ROOM

Panel Discussion with Cheryl Clarke, Brian Freeman, and Alaric Blair

Panelist Brian Freeman has personal experience with the heavy hand of censorship. The fact that his work has been banned from the National Black Theater Festival, and Morehouse College proves art can incite political passions. What does that mean? Find out as three proud lesbian/gay artists whose experience spans the generations discuss the societal and political significance of a Black Queer aesthetic.

THINK GLOBALLY... ACT LOCALLY

Politics and Activism

3:30 TO 4:25 PM ♦ ONTARIO ROOM

Panelists: L. Michael Gipson, Jubi Headley, Marjorie Hill, Willa Taylor, and Phil Wilson with Michael Pleasants as moderator

What is the character of the larger Black lesbian, gay, transgendered and bisexual movement? Are our goals different or similar to the larger lgbt community? Is our voice heard in the Black community? Are there issues that bring us together or are there others that threaten to tear us apart? Does Chicago have anything to learn from other parts of the country or our counterparts in South American, and Africa? Panelists will discuss the national political scene and activist work occurring around the country.

FINDING THE LEATHER IN YOU

3:30 TO 4:25 PM ♦ OHIO ROOM

A Panel Discussion by ONYX and ONYX Pearls

This workshop will explore what the leather lifestyle really is and how one can enter it. Panelists will share first-hand experiences, followed by an open discussion with the audience on issues concerning safety, sameness, spirituality and consent within leather relationships. Emphasis will also be placed on being a person of color within the leather community. ONYX is a social group of men of color who choose to participate in and/or discuss the leather/s&m/fetish lifestyle. ONYX Pearls is the women of color leather network.



HONORARY BANQUET AND GALA CO-CHAIRS

The Honorable United States Senators
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The Honorable Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

Banquet and Gala Co-Chairs

Renae Ogletree
Gary Rice
Michael J. Harrington

Banquet and Gala

Alden Bell	Michel Pleasants
C.C. Carter	W. Robert Schultz, III
Troy J. Ford	Verna Turner
Pat McCombs	Shelton Watson

Banquet and Gala Table Captains

Jackie Anderson	Sherri Jackson	Gary Rice
Alden Bell	Donna Johnson	Judith Routh
Lora Branch	Carl McDowell	W. Robert Schultz, III
Paris Brewer	Mary Morten	Chub Smith
Jill Burgin	Susan O. Stanley	Kevin Thompson
C.C. Carter	Renae Ogletree	Michael Thorton
Kelly Cassidy	Philip Palmer	Verna Turner
Troy J. Ford	Michael Pleasants	Steven Wakefield
Vernita Gray	Michaela Purdue	Shelton Watson
Charisse Hampton	Kasey Reese	Bennnet Williams
Ramona Hernandez	Javier Barajas	Jeff Willoughby
Michael J. Harrington		I. Israel Wright, Jr.

*Music at the Banquet and Gala is presented by "Da" Fellows.
Underwriting for their appearance graciously provided by Club Escape.*

*Underwriting for the Joel Hall Dancers
graciously provided by Shelton Watson.*



BANQUET AND GALA



SATURDAY APRIL 4, 1998

7:00 PM ♦ LaSalle Room

WELCOME RENAE OGLETREE
GARY RICE
MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON

PERFORMANCE JOEL HALL DANCERS

INVOCATION REV. ALMA CRAWFORD

DINNER

*California Mixed Greens with choice of
Balsamic Vinaigrette and Ranch Dressings*

Warm Rolls & Butter

Chicken Sonoma

Stuffed with Parmesan Cheese, Spinach & Oven Dried Tomatoes

Brown & Wild Rice Medley

Green Bean Almondine

Cheesecake painted with Raspberry Puree

LEAVING THE SHADOWS BEHIND MARY MORTEN

A new documentary about Chicago black lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-
gender activities in Chicago. Footage includes conversations with activists and
members of the community from the fall of 1995 and continues with coverage from
the 1996 and 1997 Unity Conferences, the Bud Biliken Parade, Church of the
Open Door, interviews and much more.

CLOSING RENAE OGLETREE
MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON

Please join us for the **AFTERSSET** and dance to the music of
Lora Branch, and *Ron Carroll*; two of Chicago's Hottest D.J.'s!

THANKS FOR COMING AND HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!!!!!!





BIOGRAPHIES

Lorraine Sade Baskerville is a Case Manager and Social Worker at the Columbia/Michael Reese HIV-Care program in Chicago. She also serves as a review panelist for evaluating AIDS program proposals. Several years ago, Lorraine founded "*trans-Genesis*" – a discussion group for those within the Transgender community. She is active in several community organizations, including the *Chicago HIV Prevention Planning Group* and the 23rd District *Community Policing Advisory Board*. In 1997, Lorraine received the first "Georgia Black" Award, created by the Greater Chicago Committee, for service to the Transgender community. [*Transgenesis, Workshop Session I*]

Geneva E. Bell has been the Administrator of the *Chicago Area Project* (CAP) since 1979. She is a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She is a member of Trinity United Church of Christ. She is a founding member of Trinity's *HIV/AIDS Ministry*, which is one of the largest church ministries in the City of Chicago. She wrote a book in 1977, titled *My Rose*, and is the first African American mother to write a book about her son's battle with AIDS. [*Meet the Authors, Workshop Session III*]

Alaric Blair is a free lance reviewer of Black gay literature who has been published in the *Lambda Literary Review* and the *Black Literary Review*. [*Saturday Panel: The Role of the Arts as a Political Forum*]

Jim Boushay is founder (1980) and C.E.O. (1980-1994) of Resources Unlimited, Inc. He is a member of the *Citizen's Involvement Committee*, Oak Park, and past president and member of the executive committee of the *American Association of Fundraising Council* in New York. Rickey Sain, Jr. (See bio below) and Jim are co-founders (1994) of the annual *Festival of African American Foods*, and parents to a combined six teenagers from earlier marriages. [*Interracial Relationships, Workshop Session II*]

C. C. Carter received her B.A. in English Literature from Spelman College in Atlanta. She also holds a M.A. in Creative Writing from Queens College in New York. She is a member of *A Real Read*, writes for *BLACKlines*, and is on the Unity IV program committee. [*Friday, Women's Institute*]

Pastor Alma Faith Crawford is currently spiritual leader of *Church of the Open Door* and the *Open Door Center for Community Care*. Reverend Crawford is a nationally recognized speaker and spiritual leader focusing on the liberation of Gods' people from oppressions of all kinds. Reverend Crawford holds a Masters of Divinity from Howard University and has received numerous honors and awards in recognition of her contributions. [*All God's Children, Workshop Session I*]



Isiaah Crawford, Ph.D. is Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Psychology at Loyola University Chicago. He received his Ph. D. in Clinical Psychology from DePaul University in 1987 and joined the faculty of Loyola University that same year. Dr Crawford has published extensively in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention and clinical service delivery in minority communities. Dr. Crawford is a licensed clinical psychologist and he maintains an active psychotherapy practice in Chicago. [*Gay Parenting Issues, Workshop Session I*]

Brian Freeman is a San Francisco based performance artist. His *Pomo Afro Homos* is a performance troupe that has examined Black gay issues through art. Due to the nature of his work he has the distinction of being one of the artists who gives the American right wing something to get upset about. [*Saturday Panel: The Role of the Arts as a Political Forum*]

Sanford E. Gaylord is a co-founding member and HIV Component Director of *A Real Read*, Chicago's Premiere African American LesBiGayTrans Performance Ensemble. Gaylord has had an active role in HIV education/prevention both professionally and personally. He is a columnist for *BLACKlines* magazine, and works in the field of HIV Research for the *Chicago Prevention Research Project* at Howard Brown Health Center. Sanford is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree at Columbia College. [*HIV+/HIV, Workshop Session II*]

L. Michael Gipson has been a human rights activist working on the challenges facing the under served and under represented. While working with the *DC Coalition for Black LGBT's*, Michael instituted Howard University's first on-campus LesBiGay event. He is also developing a youth program for the *National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum*. Michael is 23 years old and a graduate of the University of the District of Columbia in the field of Sociology. He currently is working as a sociology researcher for *Advocates for Youth* on two CDC funded five year Cooperative Agreements. [*Friday Youth Institute; Sexually Aware Youth, Workshop Session II*]

Martin J. Gonzales-Rojas is currently a member of the *HIV Planning Prevention Group* and facilitator of *Latino HIV+ Support Group* at Test Positive Aware Network. Martin has background as a health educator for *CALOR*, developing and implementing prevention plans for Latino gay men at risk and incorporating services including counseling and testing. He also brings experience in outreach services and support group organization and as a paralegal with the Federal, Appellate, and Supreme Courts of Illinois. [*Sexually Active Men, Workshop Session I*]





BIOGRAPHIES

Darrell Gordon has been an activist for the liberation of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered persons for twenty years. Previous and current involvement includes the *Revolutionary Socialist League, 1987's March on Washington for Lesbians and Gays, Local Committee; Emergency Clinic Defense Coalition, Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays*, and a founding member of *ACT-UP Chicago*. He also helped to organize an anti-racist demonstration around the closing of Club La Rai in 1989. Darrell has coordinated the LesBiGayTrans contingent for the African Liberation Day Parade for the past three years. [*African Liberation Day, Workshop Session I*]

Joel Hall Dancers are one of Chicago's oldest jazz dance companies. Joel Hall, the company's artistic director, is a member of *Chicago's Lesbian and Gay Hall of Fame*. Underwriting for the performance graciously provided by Shelton Watson. [*Banquet and Gala, Saturday, 7 pm*]

Father Joseph A. Harmon is an ordained Episcopal priest serving for 11 years in progressively larger and more complex parishes in New Jersey, New York, Michigan and most recently at *Church of the Epiphany* in Chicago. Father Harmon also serves as Dean of St. Gregory Episcopal School, a parochial school. [*Blessing Same Sex Couples, Workshop Session III*]

Jubi Headley is the recently appointed executive director of the *National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum*. A Boston native born to parents of Barbadian heritage, Headley has been actively involved as a member of The Forum since 1994. A graduate of Vassar College, Headley resigned his post as Manager of Information Exchange and Publications in the Health Programs Department of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) in Washington, DC, where he advocated for critical services, policies, and funding on behalf of lesbian and gay communities, communities of color, and other at-risk and/or disenfranchised populations. Prior to moving to D.C. in 1995, Headley served as Executive Assistant and Press Liaison to then Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves of Cambridge, Massachusetts, the first openly gay African-American mayor in the country [*Saturday Panel: Think Globally... Act Locally*]

Gabrielle Hearndon is a middle school teacher in the south suburbs. She is a dynamic teacher trainer. Her workshops, *The Relationship Key* and *The 8 Keys to Excellence*, are very popular because of her interpersonal and interactive style, making her one of the most sought after workshop presenters in her field. [*Friday, Women's Institute*]



Derrick Allen Hicks has a long history of involvement in the African-American LesBiGayTrans community in Washington, D.C. and Chicago. He founded *DIPLOMAT* Magazine in Chicago, one of the first to be targeted specifically to lesbians and gays of color in the 1970's. In Washington, D.C. he was a founding member of the District of Columbia's *AIDS Task Force* in addition to becoming a board member of the Whitman-Walker Clinic. Derrick then founded the *Hicks Foundation* to promote and nurture lesbian and gay journalists of color. Back in Chicago, he helped to co-found the *Greater Chicago Committee*. [*Sexually Active Men, Workshop Session I*]

Ric Irick is publisher of *Malebox Magazine*, the premiere publication for Black Gay men in Washington, D.C., and the black gay publication with the longest uninterrupted run since its inception in July, 1993. In addition, he is the producer of the *BGM Talkshow*, a live discussion forum for issues relevant to same-gender loving men of color. He is the recipient of the 1992 *SBC Brother of the Year Award*, and the 1993 *Community Service Award* given by *Washington Black Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc.* Ric holds an MBA in Marketing. [*How to Start a Magazine, Workshop Session I*]

Michia Kimbrough is a proud alum of Chicago State and Illinois State Universities. Soon after learning that Black women were severely impacted by AIDS, Michia sought ways to assist in the fight against this epidemic and became a certified HIV/AIDS educator through the American Red Cross taking her "ministry" around the globe. Michia is completing a doctoral program in *Adult Education and Multicultural Counseling*. Her doctoral research and career has focused on the education of the incarcerated and multicultural education in America. She says that she was blessed with the gift of teaching. [*AIDS Awareness for African American Women, Workshop Session I*].

O. David Jackson is a Senior Human Resources Representative for *Abt Associates, Inc.*, a leading social science research and consulting firm headquartered in Cambridge, Ma. He has served as professional staff for the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Jackson has received awards from numerous groups, most notably the Washington, D.C. chapter of *Concerned Black Men*, where he served as Vice President. A graduate of Howard University, Mr. Jackson is also the principal of a facilitation and organizational resource management consulting firm, *The Forum Group*. [*Careers 2000, Workshop Session I*]





Chester Lyles is a clinical therapist and educator with a wide background in human services. He has also been a member of the *Minority Recruitment Committee* – Loyola University of Chicago, School of Social Work; the *AIDS Foundation of Chicago*; and the *City of Chicago Human Relations Commission on Gay and Lesbian Issues*. He was a contractual therapist to both *Horizons Community Services* and the *Minority Outreach Intervention Project*. Currently, Chester is a senior staff member at DePaul University, Community Mental Health Center, where he participates in the training of Ph.D. graduate students in Psychology. [*Why You Ain't Got No Man? Workshop Session III*]

Pat McComb is called the “guru of erotica,” presenting workshops for women on the issues of *Relationship Building*, *Massage Techniques for Lovers*, and *Keeping It Hot When You're Not*. Through demonstration, and dialogue, Pat guides workshop participants in group discussions, that reveal self discovery. Pat is a certified Special Education teacher for the Chicago Public School System. [*Friday Women's Institute*]

Lawrence Moore studied Traditional Thai Medical Body Therapy under Anthony B. James, Ph.D., founder of the International Thai Therapist Association. Lawrence was trained in Vipassana (insight) meditation in Thailand and in Malaysia. Before returning to Chicago, Lawrence developed, promoted, and taught a Thai body therapy practice in Mexico — hence the name *Masaje Tailandes*, Spanish for “Thai body therapy.” [*Traditional Thai Massage, Workshop Session III*]

Rhonda Mundhenk received the first *Bayard Rustin Youth Achievement Award* from the *Greater Chicago Committee*. She was one of the founding editors of *BLACKlines*, and holds a law degree from Northwestern University and a Masters from the Medill School of Journalism. Rhonda lived some of her life in Asia. Her most recent positions have been in the area of HIV prevention and services. [*Sexually Aware Youth, Workshop Session II*]

Paula Neely is a performer, writer, and director and is a member of the *Chicago Bisexual Network*. [*Bi Myself, Workshop Session II*]

Charles E. Nelson II will be making his Unity Conference debut. He is an activist in the HIV prevention field for the past eleven years. He is co-founder of the *Minority Outreach Intervention Project*, founder of *Brother II Brother* and is currently developing *Brothers C.A.N.* (Community Awareness Network), a prevention program for gay and bisexual men on the south side of Chicago. Charles plans on continuing his efforts to promote aggressive social change, inclusive of his African heritage and sexual orientation. [*Why You Ain't Got No Man, Workshop Session III*]





Michael Pleasants is the former board president of *Test Positive Aware Network* and a member of the *Chicago Black Lesbian and Gay's* Steering Committee. He was the co-chair of Unity III. [Saturday Panel: Think Globally... Act Locally]

Donna Rose-Weem's essays, reviews, poetry, and spoken word performance have appeared extensively in the Chicagoland area as well as Indiana, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Michigan, and Wisconsin. She is a *Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award* winner. She also contributes to *BLACKlines*. [Friday Women's Institute]

Otis Richardson is the curator of the *Black Film Forum*. A videographer and graphic artist, Otis' cartoons and drawings have appeared in *BLACKlines* and *Blackfire*. Otis is working on his own video history of the Black lesbian/gay/trans community. Otis was the conference co-chair of Unity II. [Black Film Forum, and Workshop Session III]

Rickey Sain Sr. is a south side prevention case manager and AIDS walk liaison for *Horizons Community Services*. He is a member of the Board of Health and chair of the Committee on AIDS, Oak Park, as well as a member of the Quality Assurance Committee of the *Chicago-area HIV Services Planning Council*. [Interracial Relationships, Workshop Session II]

Willa Taylor is the chair of the *National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum*. She is an arts education administrator at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. [Saturday Panel: Think Globally... Act Locally]

Flecia R. Thomas is the *Director of Multicultural Student Services* and an adjunct faculty member at Bradley University. She received her M.S.Ed. in Counseling Education in 1983, and her B.S. in Speech Communication in 1982, both from Illinois State University. She has eleven years of administrative experiences, and has worked at University of Michigan, Cornell University, Northern Illinois University, and Washburn University of Topeka. Flecia is currently an A.B.D. student in Educational Psychology: Counselor Education, at Southern Illinois University. [Networking for African American Women, Workshop Session III]

Kevin E. Tindell is a consultant and training specialist focusing on managing diversity and multiculturalism. He has conducted successful engagements in a variety of industries. Kevin's background includes founder and President of *Group Imani Consulting*; experience as a diversity consultant with *Cooper's & Lybrand's Harbridge House Division*; service as HR/Training Director for *Umoja Care, Inc.*; work as a financial, marketing and legal-support consultant; and experience as trainer in human resource planning, marketing theory, and accounting applications. Kevin holds a B.B.A. and an M.M. degree in organizational behavior. [Friday Men's Institute, Saturday Panel: Finding the Leather in You]





BIOGRAPHIES

Tunukwa studied Traditional Thai Medical Body Therapy under Anthony B. James, Ph.D., founder of the *International Thai Therapist Association*. Tunukwa has studied Acupuncture and Chinese herbology at the Midwest Center for Oriental Studies. [*Traditional Thai Massage, Workshop Session III*]

Shelton Watson is a member of the *Chicago Black Lesbians and Gay's* steering committee and is chairperson of the *Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues*. [*African Liberation Day, Workshop Session I*]

Steven F. Wakefield is Associate Director of *The Night Ministry*, an organization providing health care, counseling, and shelter for the night street's population of Chicago. HIV/AIDS programs of TNM include targeted prevention programs for sex workers, churches, and homeless pregnant/parenting youth, and Gay men who are infected or at-risk. Wakefield is a board member of the *City of Chicago Department of Public Health* and the *National AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition*. He also serves on the steering committee for the *National Institute of Health's HIV Network for Prevention Trials*. [*HIV+/HIV-, Workshop Session II*]



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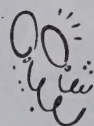
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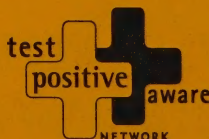
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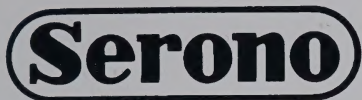
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